

Implosion

Implosion #25 -- The Third Annish! -- is the local monthly fanzine of Arnie Katz (330 S. Decatur, Suite 152, Las Vegas, NV 89107). It is produced for the 25th Distribution of Apa V, the Las Vegas apa, which has as this month's theme "Myths, Legends and Superstitions." Today is Nov. 4, 1995.

Implosion: The Fanzine that proves anyone can publish a fanzine.
Member, fwa.

The Rap Against RAP

by Paul Feller

(reprinted from **Future Dimensions #2** (April 1945))

The FANTASY-NEWS for February 18, 1945 had an eye-opening story by Raymond A. Palmer. For those who don't read AMAZING, which includes most of fandom, RAP is the Managing Editor of that sorry excuse for a pro mag. He is responsible for the Shaverism that has infected the magazine Gernsback begot.

William S. Sykora and Sam Moskowitz are giving fandom "News Whil It's Hot!" -- that's what it says on the front page -- while Uncle Sam tries to make soldiers out of Taurasi and Racic. They have a ring-tailed scoop this issue. You'll want to save FANTASY-NEWS #176 (Volume 9 Number 3) with your most valuable fanzines like SHANGRI-L'AFFAIRES (but only Burbee's issues of this once monthly fanzine).

Ray Palmer says fandom is dead. The erstwhile editor of COSMOLOGY (and a lot of other fanzines Palmer names in his introduction to impress us) claims Fandom missed its big chance. The reason that fandom (as we know it) will soon vanish from the Earth (and wherever else Deros dwell) is that fans don't remember Lemuria.

Palmer speaks with the full authority of a past president of the International Scientific Association (R.I.P.). RAP writes, "This is something they could have pitched in and helped develop. Now they are too late. Overnight, a new "Fandom" has sprung up, with a powerful organization which will get all the credit."

RAP is sore at us as only an ignored prophet can be. "I warned them of what was coming..." he thunders. Since his message about the caves fell on deaf ears in fandom, "All the fans can do now is sit helplessly back and watch the fireworks."

You have to hand it to RAP. Far from

ducking the blame, he marches to the head of the idiot parade in FANTASY-NEWS. Palmer wants to be first in line when they give out the credit -- and the cash. He is so eager to link his name to this debatable proposition that he nearly relegates prize boob Richard S. Shaver to the back seat.

Reluctant as I am to argue with the august co-founder of the Science Correspondence Club, RAP is bughouse. Maybe he should take a lesson from fandom and stop reading AMAZING STORIES and FANTASTIC ADVENTURES before his brain rots worse.

People aren't dumb enough to swallow Shaver indefinitely. Sooner or later they will heave it up. Shaverism will be given the same status as table-knocking and the transmutation of lead into gold. Fifty years from now, Richard S. Shaver won't be any better known to the general public than other pulp hacks like L. Ron Hubbard.

After rejecting RAP's version of the future, I wondered about what tomorrow holds for Science Fiction and Science Fiction Fandom. That's what's in the rest of this story.

Imagine what it will be like fifty years from now! I have, and it's like something right out of ASTOUNDING with a dash of WEIRD TALES. Here's what I see. The letter hacks can out in their two cents next month.

Many predictions made in science fiction stories will come true by 1995. There may be newsstands on Mars by then. Fandom may even include creatures from other worlds! Who knows? Some of them may even understand Ackese better than you or me.

People will still read Science Fiction in the far future. Or maybe writers will read their stories to fans via miniaturized wire recordings. (If this really happens, Kuttner will have to learn to do funny voices or be forced to hire a "ghost speaker" to front for his pen names.)

Favorite magazines like ASTOUNDING SCIENCE FICTION and PLANET STORIES will still be published regularly. So will AMAZING STORIES, hardy as a cockroach, but hopefully not with Raymond A Palmer as Managing Editor.

WEIRD TALES will still rate #1 with many fantasy fans, but a revived UNKNOWN will be a strong rival. The leading pro magazine will sell 500,000 copies or more.

Science Fiction publishing will boom in Britain once it gets back to normal after the war. Walter Gillings will ride high with TALES OF WONDER, increased to monthly frequency. It's plausible that other British fans will follow Gillings into the publishing ranks with their own professional magazines, too.

The passage of a half-century may bring the first Science Fiction magazine published in outer space. Forry will edit it, so all the stories will be in Esperanto.

The World Science Fiction Convention will make the biggest headlines in FANTASY-NEWS in 1995. Fandom will sponsor World Conventions again after the war, but the days of one every single year are gone forever. Fandom could never sustain the convention-a-year pace once the novelty wears thin. The cost of attending a convention assures that they won't happen more often than every other year.

Those who attended the New York, Chicago and Denver conventions won't recognize the 1996 version. It will be huge by today's standards. British fans will be able to come over by rocket plane, and there may even be fans in faraway places like Australia. Attendance could soar as high as one thousand fans!

The World Science Fiction Convention may even be covered on Radio and Television (which many people will have in their homes by then). Stars of Technicolor Scientifilms will attend premieres held at the convention to get publicity.

What about the National Fantasy Fan Federation? The N.F.F.F. has achieved some successes in the last year, including the FANCYCLOPEDIA and WHAT IS SCIENCE FICTION FANDOM?, but it's hard to believe in any organization that would make EEEvans its President. In 1995, the N.F.F.F. will operate under its 24th revised constitution -- and will be debating the next one. The club's 102 bureaus, none of which does a lick of work except the Welcom, will keep all 200 members constantly employed with busy work.

The F.A.P.A. will use tomorrow's technology to increase to 200 members, at least one-third of whom will have detectable

pulses. Mailings will grow to thousands of pages until a wildcat post office strike forces the F.A.P.A. to set the page requirement at eight pages a year maxium.

I haven't joined Lowndes latest brainchild, the Gothic (or is it the Modern) (or is the Vanguard) A.P.A, but Kepner showed me the first (March) mailing when he brought it around to the L.A.S.F.S. a couple of weeks ago. The roster is small but high toned, and the mailing struck me the same way., Somewhat impressed with V.A.P.A. -- which is what they finally called it -- I asked Burbee what he thought. "This Vanguard A.P.A. won't last,," he assured me.

"Don't you think it's good enough? I pressed.

"That's the trouble," he said. "This Vanguard A.P.A. is too good."

"Too good?" I said.

"Look at these names -- James Blish! Boff Perry! Donald A. Wolheim!" He continued, with a Burbee comment on each. "Joh B. Michel -- who can forget 'Mutation or Death'? They've even got Damon Knight, the fan who invented the N.F.F.F.!"

"If these fans are so good, what's the problem?" I asked.

"That is the problem, meyer," he said. Ge sook his head, sadly. "They're too damned good to stay in fandom. These people won't keep plugging away at fanzines year after year like the all-out fans in F.A.P.A."

"They won't?"

"No, sirreee!" Burbee insisted,. "They'll give up in a few years and find something better to do. They've already got some women with them, and that's a start."

Since the demise of the V.A.P.A. was only only prediction bestowed upon me by Charles Burbee (former editor of the formerly monthly SHANGRI-L'AFFAIRES) I will follow his lead. The V.A.P.A. will be cold and mouldering by 1995. That seems like a pretty safe prediction, backed by the sagacity of Burbee. Besides, what would fandom do with more than one apa?

Some fans will cling to their atomic-powered hektographs, but most fanzines will be reproduced on the very latest automatic mimeographs. No one will crank copies any more, because these marvelous machines will run on radioactivity. They may even print in colors, at least for the covers.

Degler will love this (if he isn't lynched by a mob of parents of violated daughters and

owners of property annexed by the Cosmic One during his travels), because exposure to radiation while mimeographing may mutate fans into slans.

The Post Office won't be any better, but at least stamps will be cheaper thanks to modern technology. Mail to Europe will be especially improved due to the construction of trans-Atlantic mailing tubes, like the ones in some department stores.

Originally, I didn't plan to rely on just my opinions, so the other day I asked Laney about it. "What is the future of fandom?" I said to FTL between sips of Burbee's fabulous homebrew. Now that I have his answer, I plan to rely on just my opinions.

"There is no future in fandom," replied the editor ACCOLYTE, a leady fanzine according to the Beowulf Poll. Don't book a bet that FTL won't still be grouching about the evils of fandom, while still publishing prodigiously, when 1995 arrives. And Burbee will still be grouching about how Lassfass took away SHANGRI-L'AFFAIRES.

It's unlikely that many of the clubs and fanzines we know today will persist for 50 more years. Fanhacks like Ackerman, Moskowitz and Tucker will churn out fanzine writing as long as they draw breath, but who knows what new fans may appear in Los Angeles, New York, Chicago and other centers of fandom.

English fandom will make a postwar comeback. This will be good for fandom, because British fans are much more mature and have better manners than their rough-and-tumble American counterparts. The English fans believe in K.T.F. (Kindness to Fanzines), so their presence may reduce the number of personal attacks and unprovoked fan feuds.

"Why not forecast the lives of individual fans?" Laney said to me just after he told me that fandom has no future. Presumably, Towner meant the lives of current fans in his utopian, fanzine-less world of the future, but it sounds like a good idea, so here goes.

FORREST J ACKERMAN. Between issues of his Esperanto S.F. magazine, Forry will teach Simplified Spelng at UCLA.

BOB TUCKER. He will become a movie tycoon with his own chain of theaters in the Midwest. When the Grim Reaper comes knocking, Tucker will point to the Death Hoax and refuse to go.

DONALD A. WOLHEIM. After the War, he

will serve as Ambassador to Russian. He will settle there after retirement.

ART WIDNER. After a five-year stint as president of the National Fantasy Fan Federation, Widner will self-publish a book of literary essays about Science Fiction. The work's fame will land him the Jack Williamson chair at Harvard University.

CLAUDE DEGLER. Has anyone else noticed how similar Clod's life is to the early days of A. Hitler? Thaty may mean that Degler is fated to become President of the United States in some dark future. More likely, he'll be a camp counselor in the Ozarks.

JACK SPEER. Non-fan activities will reduce, or even eliminate, Juffus' fan activity. On the other hand, Senator Speer will propose the bill that grants fanzine editors free postage.

E. EVERETT EVANS. One of the oldest current fans, Tripoli will begone but not entirely forgotten fifty years hence. The way things go in fandom, someone will probably name an award after him to honor his secret wartime service for his country.

AL ASHLEY. This energetic fanzine publisher will come out from behind the shadow of EEEvans and become well known to fandom in his own right. :png after Evans' platitudes are forgotten, fans will repeat Ashley's fames quotes.

That's about it except for one final prediction. If Raymond A. Palmer is amazingly wrong in his belief that our fandom is doomed, some material-starved fanzine will reprint this article in 1995 and laugh like a hyena (or a Laney) at my expense.

Who knows? It might even be MY fanzine.

- Paul Feller